

You cannot wait until a storm is coming. Taking early precautions, as well as having a recovery plan, is very important to minimize damage to your own property.

If enough people take precautions, government agencies are free to help those who need it most: the elderly, children, the handicapped, and people in shelters.

So make sure you have a three day supply of non-perishable food and water;

Make sure that you have a change of batteries for your flashlights, radios, and other devices;

Fill up your car's gas tank; and keep all your important papers in a safe, dry place.

Please don't wait until the last minute to prepare. It's up to all of us to make sure we're safe.

I also want to thank President Obama and his entire administration for working with state and local authorities throughout the year to prepare for hurricane season and all types of disasters. I'd also like to thank the President and his Administration for including the State of Florida Emergency Manager Bryan Koon, Florida Adjutant General Major General Emmett Titshaw, and Florida Power & Light President Eric Silagy in his hurricane preparedness briefing at the White House yesterday.

Lastly, I'd like to salute the important role that our first responders and local television and radio broadcasters play in coordinating and providing critical information during hurricanes and times of disaster.

It takes a tremendous amount of planning and coordination, and we are grateful for the collaboration that the public and private sectors play in times of emergency.

Hopefully we'll have an uneventful hurricane season this year. But we must always be prepared so that we can weather the storm and come out safe and sound on the other end.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Chair, yesterday, the House of Representatives took a vote on H. AMDT. 1159 to H.R. 5854, the Military Construction/VA Appropriations Bill. I voted in support of this amendment because it strikes the anti-project labor agreement language within section 517 of this bill.

This amendment was pro-labor and will keep Project Labor Agreements from being eliminated within the bill. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) have been essential and successful tools used by both governments and private sector companies for years. They help not only employees, but also employers. PLAs have been used since the 1930s in the U.S. and studies show they not only promote fair labor practices, but also are cost-effective.

For these reasons, I voted to protect PLAs because we, in Congress, need to stand strong in our fight for fair labor practices and in protecting policies that prove to be successful.

#### CELEBRATING CHEMICOMAYS LLC ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR THIRD CONSECUTIVE SELECTION AS GENERAL MOTORS SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize ChemicoMays LLC and its CEO Leon Richardson as the company is honored for its third consecutive year as a General Motors Supplier of the Year. Each year, General Motors (GM) awards this distinction to less than one percent of its nearly 20,000 suppliers worldwide.

ChemicoMays, based in Southfield, Michigan, was formed as a joint venture between Chemico System and Mays Chemical in 2005. Since that time, it has used its more than 20 years of experience to deliver chemical management solutions for industry customers. With over 250 employees and a focus on providing high quality service to its many customers, the company's client base has grown to include great American companies like General Motors, Boeing and Eli Lilly.

Through its unique proprietary Web interface system, ChemicoMays has labored to provide its customers a user-friendly tool that enables them to easily access the more than 150 million pounds of chemicals it procures annually. ChemicoMays also provides to its clients a specialized array of inventory management tools that allow companies to efficiently identify and utilize previously wasted supplies. In concert with its policy to provide simple, transparent pricing, ChemicoMays has a proven track record that has resulted in not one of its clients having a work stoppage due to chemical availability.

ChemicoMays' commitment to excellence in production and service is a standard that emanates from its CEO Leon Richardson. Prior to the creation of ChemicoMays, Mr. Richardson established Chemico Systems, Inc. in 1989 and served as its president. Throughout his career, Mr. Richardson has strived to ensure that his clients receive the best and most comprehensive customer support. More importantly, Mr. Richardson brings out the best in his employees in fulfillment of the company's mission. With his tenacity and experience, he led Chemico Systems from a mere start-up company to one of the world's top suppliers of chemical products and chemical management services in the automotive, bio-tech and academic sectors.

Today, Mr. Richardson's effective leadership continues as CEO of ChemicoMays. His dedication and that of ChemicoMays' employees have earned the company numerous industry accolades including three consecutive Supplier of the Year Awards from GM, GM's 2007 Environmental Excellence Award and being named one of Michigan's top 50 companies to watch in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating ChemicoMays and Mr.

Leon Richardson on earning the company's third consecutive Supplier of the Year Award from GM. ChemicoMays' commitment to excellence in production and service has greatly benefited its customers, employees and the communities it calls home.

#### REP. PETRI FLOOR AMENDMENT 25 (RULES AMENDMENT 46) TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (H.R. 4310)

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to compensate National Guard troops for miscalculated leave time.

This amendment corrects a government error to pay approximately 575 Army National Guard troops for leave time they earned but were unable to take after their last deployment. These soldiers have spent time overseas defending our great nation—some in multiple deployments—and have earned their leave benefits.

The Army agrees that these Guardsmen should have received PDMRA leave. However, the Army's only legal remedy is to allow them use their PDMRA leave after a future deployment. Since some of these soldiers will not deploy again and others have left the service entirely, this remedy has no value in many cases.

I would like to give special thanks to Congressman PETRI for working with me to ensure that this egregious bureaucratic error is rectified. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and properly support our service members who selflessly serve.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELLIOTT DUCHON

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Jurupa Valley are exceptional. Our area has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Elliott Duchon is one of these individuals. On Saturday, May 19, 2012, Duchon was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Jurupa Valley Chamber of Commerce for his work as the Jurupa Unified School District Superintendent.

In 1974, Duchon graduated from the University of California, Riverside (UCR) with a Master's Degree in Education and Psychology. After graduation, he was an elementary teacher for the Jurupa Unified School District where he also served on school planning committees, including the school site council. After three years of teaching, Duchon was self-employed and served as a consultant to the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools where he performed land use studies and demographic research and analysis to form a

Long Range Facility Plan for the 22 school districts in Riverside County. In 1981, Duchon became a Systems Planning Analyst for the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) where he performed planning and administrative duties related to the management of a fourteen building, \$20 million facility construction program.

After two years as the Systems Planning Analyst, Duchon became the Instructional Computing Project Manager for the Inland Empire Teacher Education and Computer Center within RCOE. In this role, he was responsible for an array of services related to the instructional uses of education technology. The services were provided to the 58 school districts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. In 1985, Duchon was promoted to Director of the Region 13 Teacher Education and Computer Center where he was responsible for the two-county staff development program in all areas of the curriculum. In 1991, he was promoted again to Director of Administrative Services for RCOE where he was responsible for administration and management for the Department of Administrative Services, which included the Geographic Information Center, internal and external support for school facilities development, school district elections, staff support to the County Committee on School District Organization and other management services. After ten years as the Director, Duchon was promoted to the Riverside County Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Administrative Support Services, Division of Information Technology/Governmental Relations. In 2001, Duchon became the Deputy Superintendent for the Jurupa Unified School District and after three years became the Superintendent of Schools for the District.

As Superintendent, Duchon was responsible for all aspects of operating a 20,000 student school district with over 2,000 employees and a \$160 million budget. His major accomplishments include a District Academic Performance Index (API) that has risen 100 points during his tenure; the District has four Distinguished Schools and two Title I Achieving Schools; a 100% rating of Highly Qualified Teachers; the completion and opening of a new high school; the establishment of an Early College High School Academy with Riverside Community College; the District has received three Golden Bell awards; and the student achievement gap has narrowed. During his time, Duchon has been recognized by the Region XIX Association of California School Administrators as the 2007 Superintendent of the Year; recognized as the West Riverside School Administrators 2006 Superintendent of the Year; and recognized by the Riverside County, California School Bilingual Educators chapter as the 2006 Superintendent of the Year.

In light of all Elliott Duchon has done for the students, parents and community of Jurupa Valley it is only fitting that he be honored as the Superintendent of the Year. Elliott Duchon's tireless passion for education and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives this prestigious award.

## THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY GI BILL

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today, June 1, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of the first permanent Department of Veterans Affairs-administered Montgomery GI Bill. Enacted in 1987, the landmark New GI Bill Continuation Act offered a life changing incentive for veterans returning from active duty to the workforce. By offering veterans access to higher education, it both strengthened our national defense and helped revitalize our economy.

The GI Bill has proved over the years to be a boon for many of our veterans. Veterans are able to return home with a plan for their future. The education they receive helps many enter the workforce and provide for themselves and for their families in ways that were not previously possible.

This program has blessed our Nation and continues to do so by benefiting not only veterans, but many sectors of the economy by injecting highly qualified individuals to the workforce and the community. Veterans are able to combine the skill sets they learn both from their schooling and from their military training and often become excellent leaders and contributors to society. As I have said in the past—hiring former service members for patriotic reasons expresses appreciation and respect. Hiring them for business reasons gets results.

Our veterans fought to protect our freedoms and way of life, and as they serve our Nation in this time of need, we must remember them in their time of need. Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to preserve our way of life, and the American people are indebted to the men and women who served our Nation. I am proud of the work Congress has done to improve veterans' benefits. It is important that we continue to honor our commitments to our Nation's veterans through legislation that benefits them, like the Montgomery GI Bill.

So as the former Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Benefits, and as a grateful American, I want to pay tribute to the thousands of veterans in Idaho and the United States who have given us so much.

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 31, 2012*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5854) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5854, the FY13 Military Construction-VA Appropriations Act. This sub-

committee has a strong record of bipartisan collaboration and I want to commend Subcommittee Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP for their leadership in advancing this important bill.

However, I remain disappointed that the Republican Majority continues to depart from the spending caps agreed to in the Budget Control Act of 2011, which already mandates deep spending cuts across the Federal budget. As we continue passing appropriations bills under the constraints of the Republican Budget Resolution, it is crucial that we protect our veterans and military families from any deep and harmful budget cuts. Members of the Committee were able to do so in this bill by providing ample funding for veterans healthcare, education, and construction improvements on our military bases. It also takes much needed action to improve the VA and Pentagon's health records sharing program.

It is an honor to serve on the subcommittee that ensures that our armed forces, their families, and our veterans get the critical resources they have earned. After listening to veterans in my District and meeting with military families on bases across the country, I worked to further strengthen H.R. 5854 to reflect their priorities. I am pleased that this bill contains language that helps women veterans gain access to important medical needs, including prosthetics for women amputees. This bill also contains language that fully supports the Defense and Veterans Affairs Departments in their efforts to increase their use of clean alternative energy sources. Lastly, it encourages our military to continue their strong commitment to providing the best quality child care and housing on base.

Although the Subcommittee reported a "clean" bill, I was disappointed that a harmful and unnecessary amendment restricting project labor agreements was adopted during Full Committee markup. I am strongly opposed to the inclusion of the provision and it is my hope that members vote to remove it before final passage of the legislation.

America has a debt to pay for the service and sacrifices our veterans have made for all of us. The funding provided in this bill is absolutely essential to provide the services and support to all our veterans, especially those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We can and must meet our commitments to the millions of veterans, service members and their families here and across the world.

Passage of this bill would help accomplish this and I urge my colleagues to support it.

## WHO WILL DEFEND THE DEFENDERS?

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, since the tragic Islamist terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 no law enforcement agency has been more effective in preventing another successful terrorist attack than the New York Police Department. Under Commissioner Ray Kelly's leadership the NYPD has had 1000 police officers working 24/7, building a counter-terrorist infrastructure and taking proactive action to stop at least 14 terrorist plots against New York City.